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INFORMATION REPORT

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Hungary

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SUBJECT

The Garrison at Börgönd

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. At the northern edge of the Börgönd airfield is a barracks complex occupied by Hungarian parachute troops. There are seven one-storied buildings, in addition to two staff buildings and houses for officers' families. The last are on the northwestern side of the Szabadbattyán-Börgönd railroad. The barracks can accommodate a complete infantry battalion of 650 to 700 men, with staff and offices.

2. The barracks is now occupied by an independent parachute training battalion with Including the permanently attached men, it has a personnel of 650.

3. Its order of battle is:

Battalion command

Staff and quartermaster office

A parachute engineer platoon (42 men)

A communications platoon (43 men)

An antiaircraft platoon (50 men)

A mechanized platoon (42 men)

A motor transport column

1 Parachute Company, 104 men, divided into a rifle platoon and two demolition platoons, trained by engineers.

2 Parachute Company (organized and trained as above)

3 Parachute Company (organized and trained as above)

4. The commander of the engineer platoon is Lt. Béla Börzsönyi. The communications platoon has an R/6 radio apparatus. The telephone equipment will handle four stations, and each company is equipped with a small portable apparatus. The AA platoon has four 37 mm. model 39 automatic AA guns. Its commander is Sub-Lt. Zsigmond Móder. The mechanized platoon has a repair car and is commanded by Sub-Lt.

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Gábor Simon. The motor transport column has 15 trucks, but also uses the quartermaster trucks.

5. The armament of a squad in the parachute companies is 1 mortar, model M-40, 50 mm; 1 light machine gun, model M-28; 1 "Tokarev" automatic gun, model M-40; 8 machine pistols, model M-43.
6. The battalion commander is Major Tivadar Geller. The political officer is First Lt. Izsó Mezei. The commander of 1 Company is Captain Zoltán Táray; of 2 Company, Captain Sándor Melykúti; of 3 Company, First Lt. Hubert Vámos.
7. The battalion has 12 "Teve" transport planes, which are really Russian LI-2s. The parachutes are blue and made of eight sections.
8. At present the battalion consists of men belonging to the classes of 1929, 1930 and 1931. The recruits receive their infantry training together with parachute training, even including those who are detailed from other units. Until October 1951 it was a fully voluntary service, but since that date men are simply detailed for parachute training.
9. Real parachute training begins after the sixth week. The first jump is made from a height of 800 m. As a matter of fact most of the men are former members of the Hungarian Flyers' Association (OMRE) or Ready for the Labor Struggle (MHSZH), and have had some parachute training as civilians. During exercises, jumps are made from 2,000 meters, but parachutes are not supposed to be opened until the trooper is 600 to 800 meters above the ground, in order to avoid dispersal of units on landing.

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